

**JOE WARDY**  
MAYOR



**CITY COUNCIL**

**SUSAN AUSTIN**  
DISTRICT NO. 1

**ROBERT A. CUSHING, JR.**  
DISTRICT NO. 2

**JOSE ALEXANDRO LOZANO**  
DISTRICT NO. 3

**JOHN F. COOK**  
DISTRICT NO. 4

**DANIEL S. POWER**  
DISTRICT NO. 5

**PAUL J. ESCOBAR**  
DISTRICT NO. 6

**VIVIAN ROJAS**  
DISTRICT NO. 7

**ANTHONY W. COBOS**  
DISTRICT NO. 8

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
AUGUST 20, 2003  
9:00 A.M.**

The City Council met at the above place and date at approximately 9:17 a.m. Mayor Joe Wardy present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Susan Austin, Robert A. Cushing, Jr., Jose Alexandro Lozano, John F. Cook, Vivian Rojas, and Anthony Cobos. Late Arrival at 9:33 a.m.: Council Member Daniel S. Power. Absent: Council Member Paul J. Escobar.

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**AGENDA**

Discussion and Action to review the budget hearings held on the FY2004 budget and revisions to the Mayor's proposed budget.

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**Staff Comments:**

Mr. Bill Chapman, Chief Financial Office/Deputy Chief Administrative Office, explained Mayor's draft proposal (on file in the City Clerk's Office) and latest revisions:

- Travel Policy, Item 14
- Reorganization, Items 38,39, 40, 41
- Schedule A and B
- Bond ratings
- Zoo staffing and accounting of expenditures
- Library staffing, operating hours and salary savings
- Answered the question of Council on assorted appropriations

Mr. David Almonte, Office of Management and Budget Director, gave back up figures and answered questions of Council regarding staffing, expenditures and revenue.

Dr. William Torgerson, Zoo Director, explained impact of proposed FY 2004 budget on Zoo operations and safety; explained revenue, fees, and attendance figures and answered the questions of Council members.

Ms. Carol Brey-Casiano, Director of Library, explained impact of unfilled positions and salary savings; use of volunteers at the libraries; library fees and answered the questions of Council.

Ms. Emma Acosta, Deputy Director for Solid Waste Management, explained recycling program costs, usage and needs and answered the questions of Council.

**Mayor and Council Comments:**

Mayor Wardy: explained:

- Item 42, commented on fee structure and the need for users to compensate the City for its expenses
- Item 14: Travel policy and the need for travel to be conducted responsibly
- Lower than expected CAD valuations
- Schedule A: increased prisoner custody costs
- Zoo staffing, fees and accounting of expenditures
- General staffing issues regarding vacant positions
- Licensing fees for contractors
- Library staffing
- Recycling program
- Brownfields Coordinator position
- Staffing in City Attorney's Office

Representative Cushing commented on:

- CAD figures
- Parking revenues and their accounting
- Zoo staffing and the accounting of Zoo Director's salary
- Need to be creative in finding new revenue sources or improved collection of existing revenue sources
- Recycling program in Solid Waste Management

Representative Lozano commented on:

- Tax rate calculation
- Licensing fees for contractors
- Need to be creative in finding new revenue sources or improved collection of existing revenue sources
- Need for more aggressive marketing for tourism
- Garbage pick up services for yard waste and recycling

Representative Austin commented on:

- Changes to revenue
- Parking revenue and its accounting
- Fund balance
- Zoo staffing and appropriations and accounting of salary expenditures
- Library staffing, operations and fines/fees
- Economic Development Dept budget
- Project Arriba budget
- STARS funding
- Plaza Theater Funding, Item 35
- Increased prisoner custody charges
- Proposed fee increase

Representative Cook commented on

- Need for increased funding for the spay/neuter program in the Health Dept. budget and a proposed increase in the rabies fee
- Library funding
- Recycling program in Solid Waste Management
- Increased prisoner custody costs and the need for more collaborative efforts among City- County law enforcement functions
- Proposed increases to fees

Representative Cobos commented on:

- Parking revenue
- Fund balance
- Zoo staffing, accounting of salary expenditures and Zoo fees
- Library staffing, operating hours and salary savings
- Keep El Paso Beautiful Funding in Solid Waste Management budget
- Street Dept increase in funding
- Increased prisoner custody costs

Representative Power commented on:

- Parking revenues
- Fund balance
- Zoo staffing and appropriations and accounting of salary expenditures
- Library staffing and salary savings
- Need to be aggressive in economic development and generation of tourism
- Recycling program in Solid Waste Management

Representative Rojas commented on:

- Staffing shortage at the libraries and the salary savings

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Larry Glisan, member of the public and Vice- President of the El Paso Public Library Association, urged the Council to follow through on the quality of life projects.

Ms. Katherine Palafox, Executive Director of Keep El Paso Beautiful, thanked the Council for funding her organization.

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Motion made by Representative Cushing, seconded by Representative Austin and unanimously carried to suspend the Council Rules of Order applying to electronic voting.

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Motion made by Representative Cobos, seconded by Representative Cushing and carried to increase the Zoo's operating budget by \$75,000.

AYES: Representatives Austin, Cushing, Cook, Power, Rojas and Cobos

NAYS: Representative Lozano

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Motion made by Representative Cook; seconded by Representative Power and unanimously carried to increase the Library Department's operating budget by \$75,000.

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Motion made by Representative Cook, seconded by Representative Power and unanimously carried to increase by \$150,000 the Health Dept's budget for the spay/neuter programs.

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Motion made by Representative Austin, seconded by Representative Power and unanimously carried to approve amended language to Item 35 of the City of El Paso Draft FY 2004 Budget Resolution (on file in the City Clerk's Office), adding at the end of the sentence the words, "prior to the approval of issuance of any such debt, 50%, and after that, 100%."

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Motion made by Representative Cushing, seconded by Representative Cook and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting at 11:45 a.m.


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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk



Lisa A. Elizondo, City Attorney